

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to the labeling of each FIG. and include the addition of the term "(PRIOR ART)" to FIGS. 1A - 3. Other modifications include corrections to reference numbering and clean up of other minor errors. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Attachments: Annotated Sheets 1 - 9 Showing Changes (Appendix C)
Replacement Sheets 1 - 9

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this amendment, the specification has been replaced in its entirety due to the numerous changes throughout. The changes made to the replacement specification (Appendix A) add no new matter. The marked-up original version of the specification is attached hereto as Appendix B. The changes have been made to correct minor errors discovered by the Applicant and to enhance readability of the specification. References to drawings have been amended to conform them to USPTO drawing label requirements.

In the amended Drawing Sheets, the formatting of each label of the drawings has been amended to conform to USPTO drawing label requirements. Some changes have been made to the drawings to correct minor errors discovered by the Applicant. No new matter has been added by the amendments made to the drawings.

In this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4 - 8, and 10 - 22 have been modified while claims 23 - 28 are newly added.

In the Office action dated December 19, 2005, the Examiner made a restriction requirement. The Examiner indicated that the application as originally filed contained claims directed to three patentably distinct species:

- Species A: The first embodiment of the invention (FIGS. 5A - 5E and paragraphs 68 - 91 of the specification).
- Species B: The second embodiment of the invention (FIGS. 6A - 6H and paragraphs 92 - 98 of the specification).
- Species C: The third embodiment of the invention (FIGS. 7A - 7E and paragraphs 99 - 107 of the specification).

The Office action required that the Applicant elect a single species for prosecution on the merits and to provide a listing of claims which are readable thereon.

In response to this requirement, Applicant elects Species #1 and hereby asserts that claims 1 - 5, 12 - 16, and newly added claims 23, 25, 27, and 28 read thereon. Applicant also asserts that, at least, newly added independent claim 27 is generic to Species #2 and #3 as well as to Species #1. These assertions are made for examination purposes only and should not be interpreted to narrow the scope of any claim. In particular, the use of the terms "first material" and "second material" as set forth in the various independent claims should not be interpreted more narrowly than required by the combination of elements explicitly set forth in each individual claim. As claimed, the deposition of, or depositing of, the first material does precede the deposition of, or depositing of, the second material however, unless required by other elements of a specific claim, the "first material" may not be the initial material deposited during formation

of a given layer but instead may follow the deposition of one or more other materials. Similarly, unless required by other elements of a claim, the deposition of, or the depositing of, the second material need not immediately follow the deposition of the first material but instead may be preceded by the deposition of, or depositing of, a one or more intermediate materials. Based on the wording of the claims, it is clear that some variations of the second and third embodiments may fall within the scope of claim 1 but as it is possible that other variations may fall outside of the scope of claim 1, Applicant is not asserting herein that claim 1 is generic to all possible variations of the second and third embodiments (i.e. that claim 1 does not read generically on the second or third embodiments).

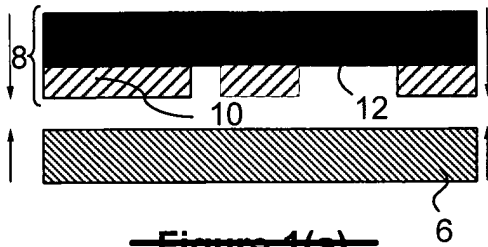
In view of the amendments and remarks, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and passage to allowance is earnestly solicited. If any questions should arise concerning this application or if it would otherwise be useful to discuss this application, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned by phone so as to expedite prosecution of this application.

Microfabrica Inc.
7911 Haskell Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91406
Ph: (818) 786-3322, ext. 105
Fx: (818) 997-3659

Respectfully submitted,

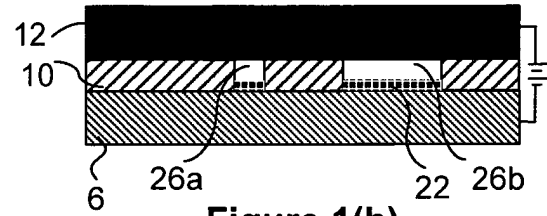


Dennis R. Smalley
Reg. No. 35,364



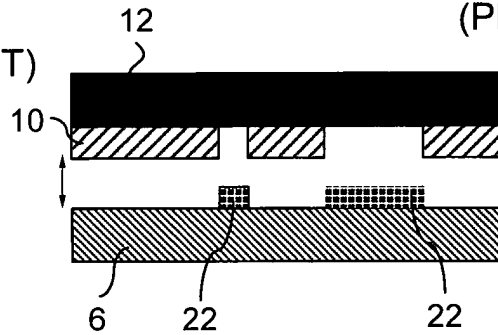
~~Figure 1(a)~~

FIG 1A
(PRIOR ART)



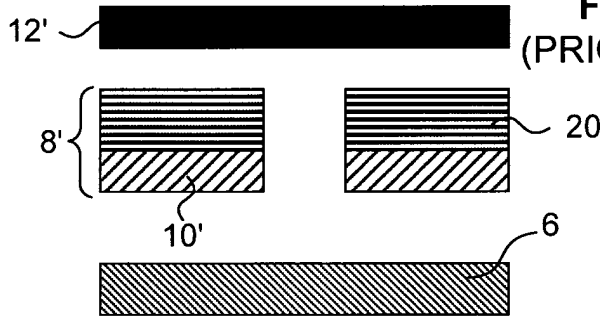
~~Figure 1(b)~~

FIG 1B
(PRIOR ART)



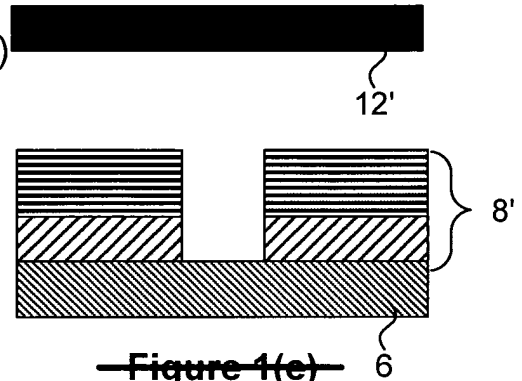
~~Figure 1(c)~~

FIG 1C
(PRIOR ART)



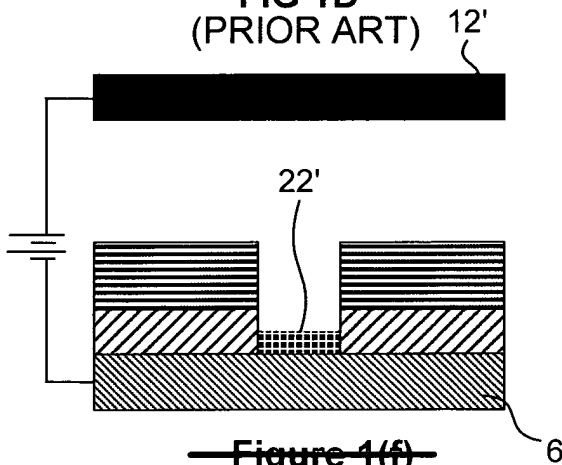
~~Figure 1(d)~~

FIG 1D
(PRIOR ART)



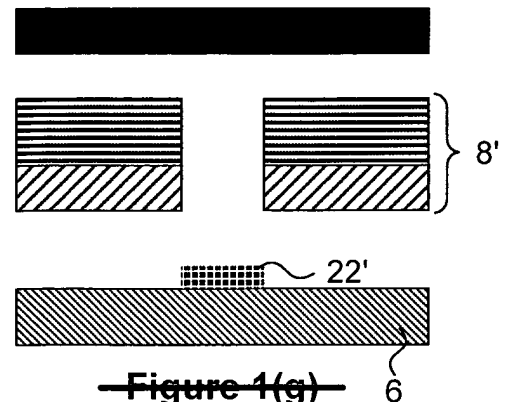
~~Figure 1(e)~~

FIG 1E
(PRIOR ART)



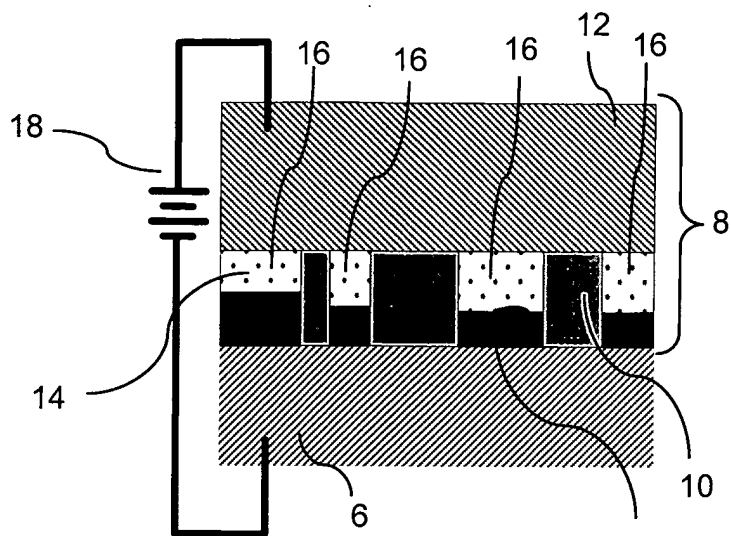
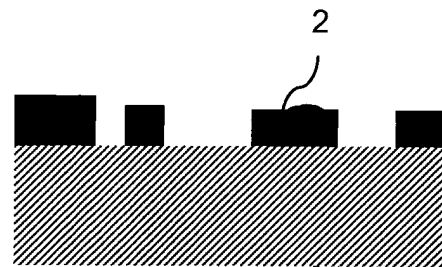
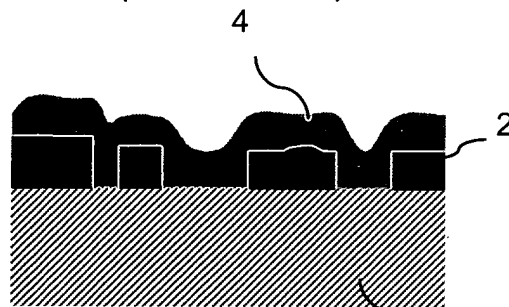
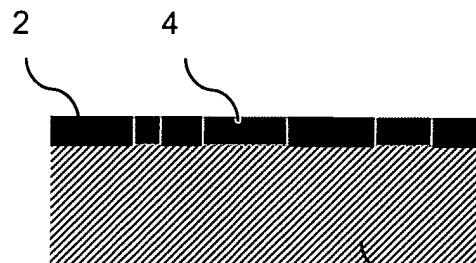
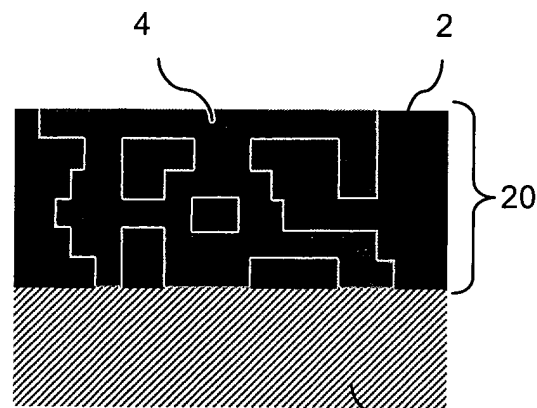
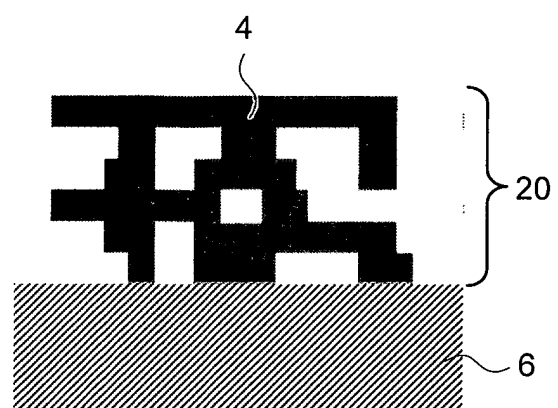
~~Figure 1(f)~~

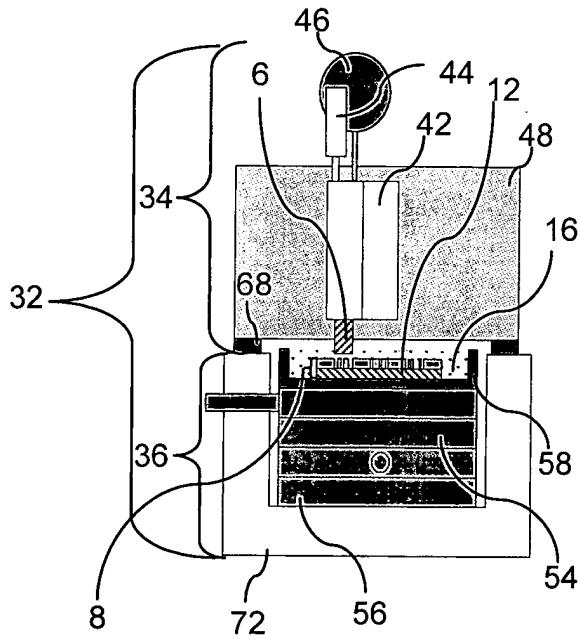
FIG 1F
(PRIOR ART)



~~Figure 1(g)~~

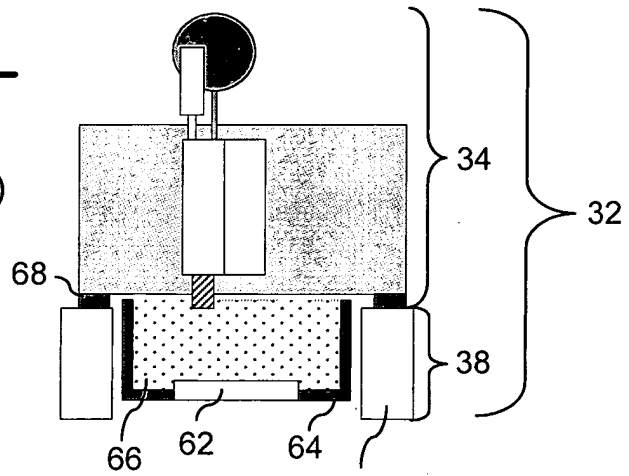
FIG 1G
(PRIOR ART)

~~Figure 2(a)~~FIG 2A
(PRIOR ART)~~Figure 2(b)~~FIG 2B
(PRIOR ART)~~Figure 2(c)~~FIG 2C
(PRIOR ART)~~Figure 2(d)~~FIG 2D
(PRIOR ART)~~Figure 2(e)~~FIG 2E
(PRIOR ART)~~Figure 2(f)~~FIG 2F
(PRIOR ART)



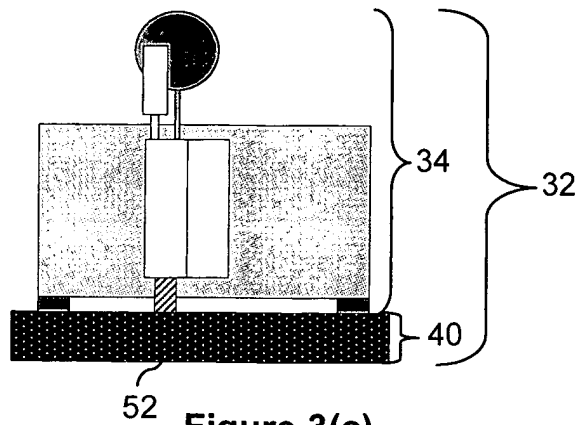
~~Figure 3(a)~~

FIG 3A
(PRIOR ART)



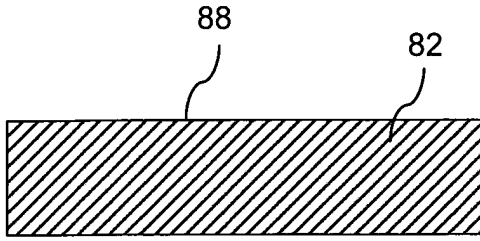
~~Figure 3(b)~~

FIG 3B
(PRIOR ART)

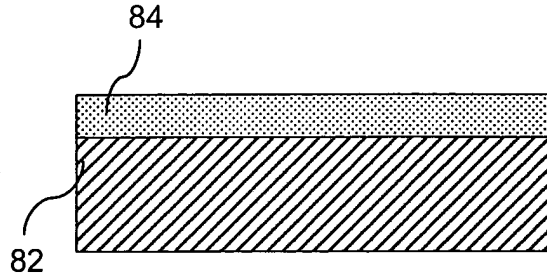


~~Figure 3(c)~~

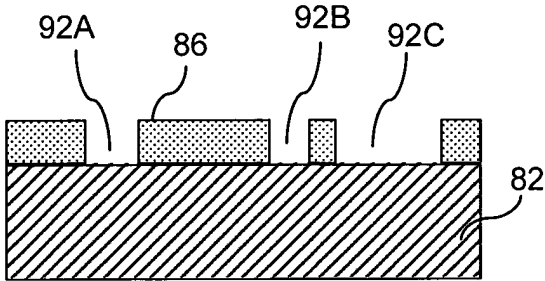
FIG 3C
(PRIOR ART)



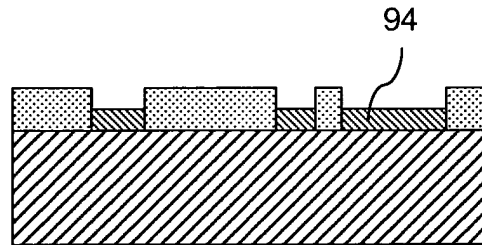
~~Figure 4(a)~~
FIG 4A



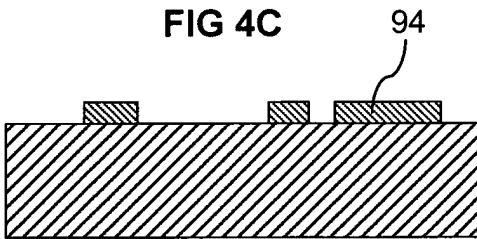
~~Figure 4(b)~~
FIG 4B



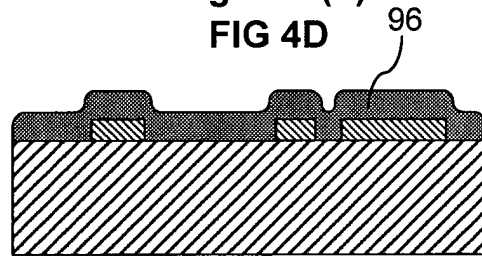
~~Figure 4(c)~~
FIG 4C



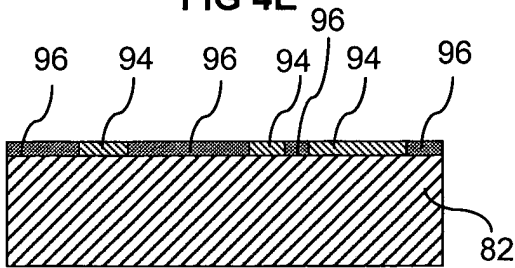
~~Figure 4(d)~~
FIG 4D



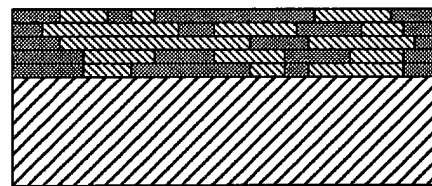
~~Figure 4(e)~~
FIG 4E



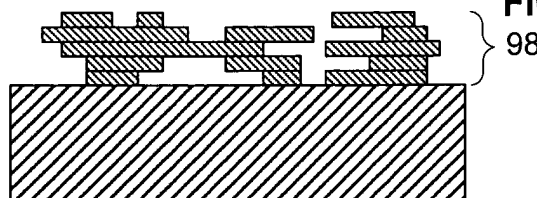
~~Figure 4(f)~~
FIG 4F



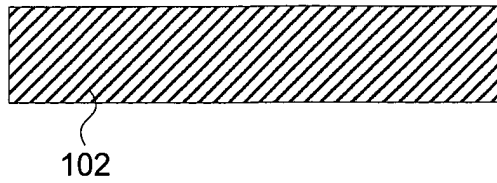
~~Figure 4(g)~~
FIG 4G



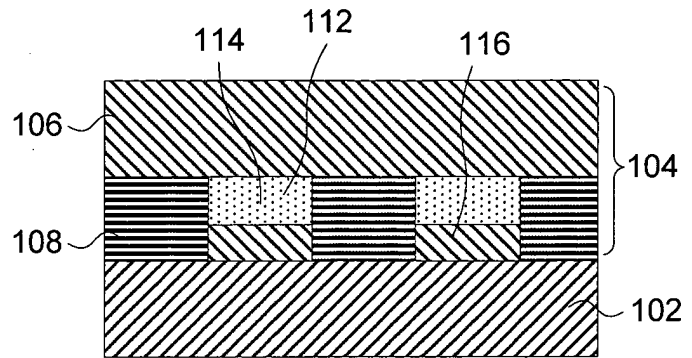
~~Figure 4(h)~~
FIG 4H



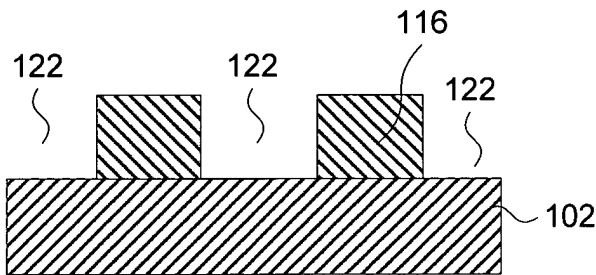
~~Figure 4(i)~~
FIG 4I



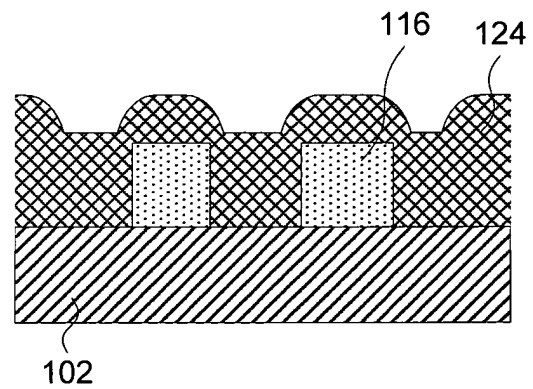
~~Figure 5(a)~~
FIG 5A



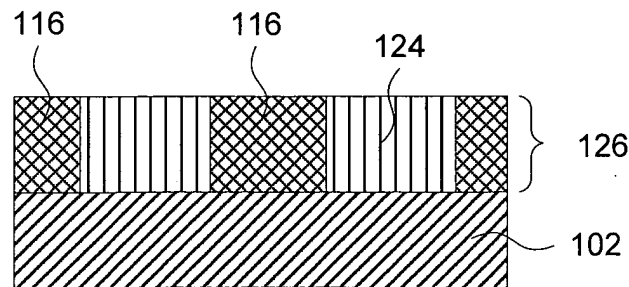
~~Figure 5(b)~~
FIG 5B



~~Figure 5(c)~~
FIG 5C



~~Figure 5(d)~~
FIG 5D



~~Figure 5(e)~~
FIG 5E

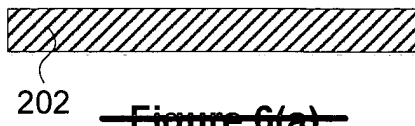
~~Figure 6(a)~~

FIG 6A

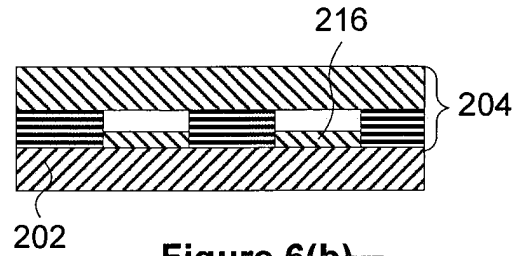
~~Figure 6(b)~~

FIG 6B

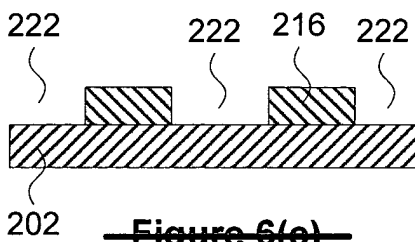
~~Figure 6(c)~~

FIG 6C

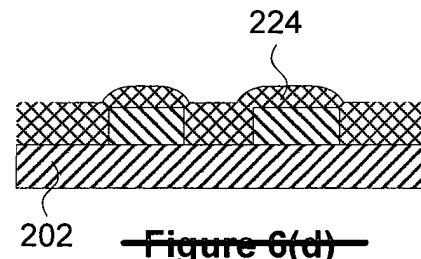
~~Figure 6(d)~~

FIG 6D

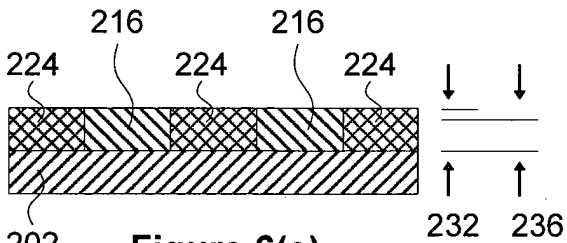
~~Figure 6(e)~~

FIG 6E

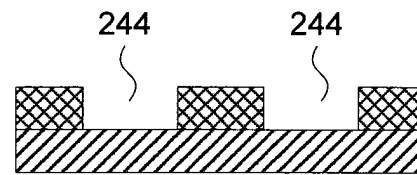
~~Figure 6(f)~~

FIG 6F

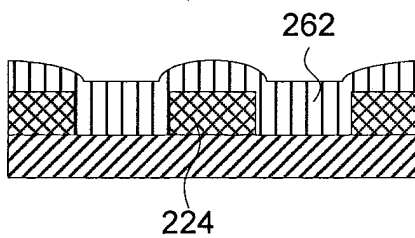
~~Figure 6(g)~~

FIG 6G

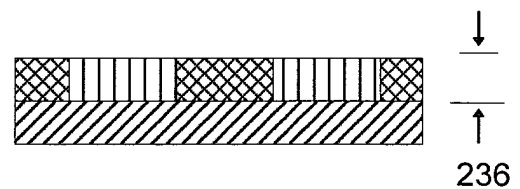
~~Figure 6(h)~~

FIG 6H

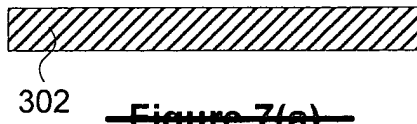
~~Figure 7(a)~~

FIG 7A

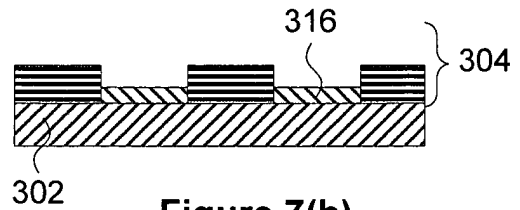
~~Figure 7(b)~~

FIG 7B

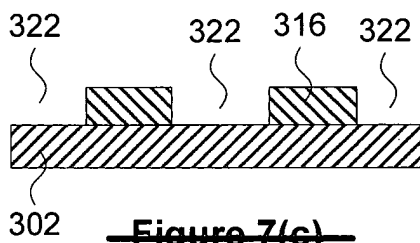
~~Figure 7(c)~~

FIG 7C

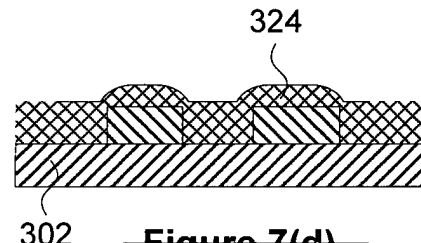
~~Figure 7(d)~~

FIG 7D

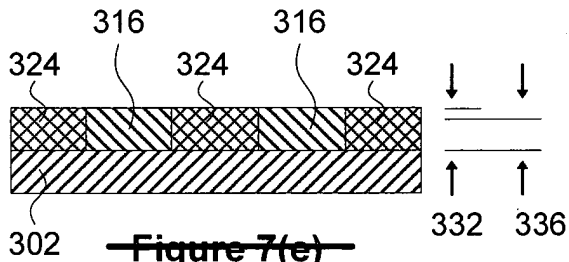
~~Figure 7(e)~~

FIG 7E

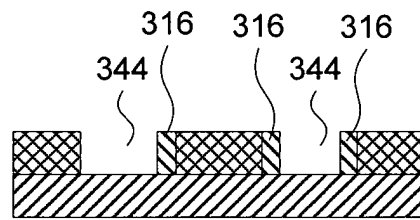
~~Figure 7(f)~~

FIG 7F

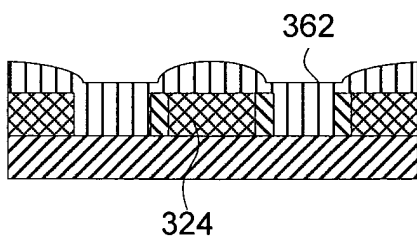
~~Figure 7(g)~~

FIG 7G

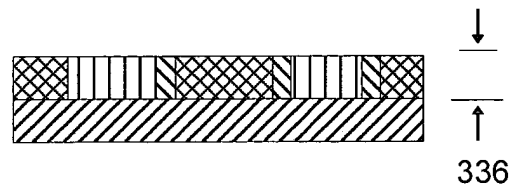
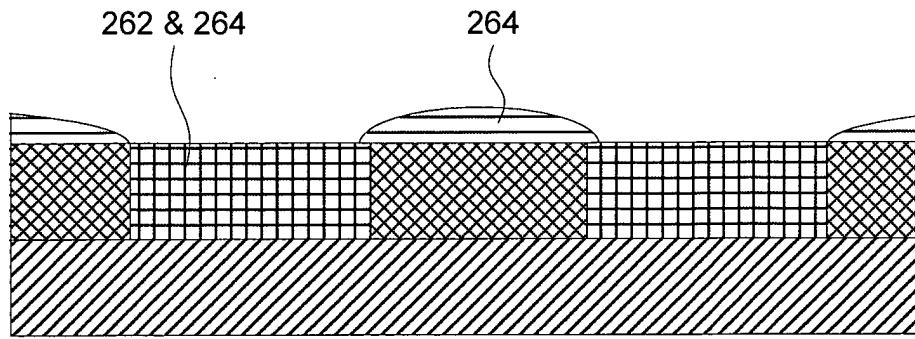
~~Figure 7(h)~~

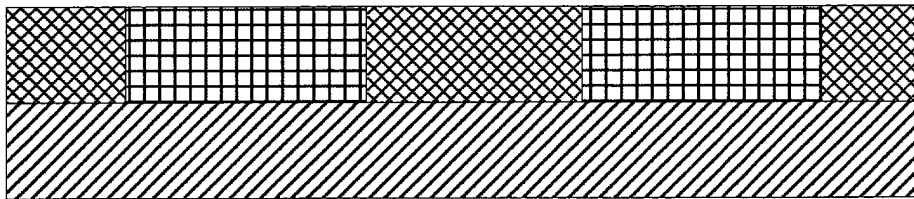
FIG 7H



~~236~~

~~Figure 8(a)~~

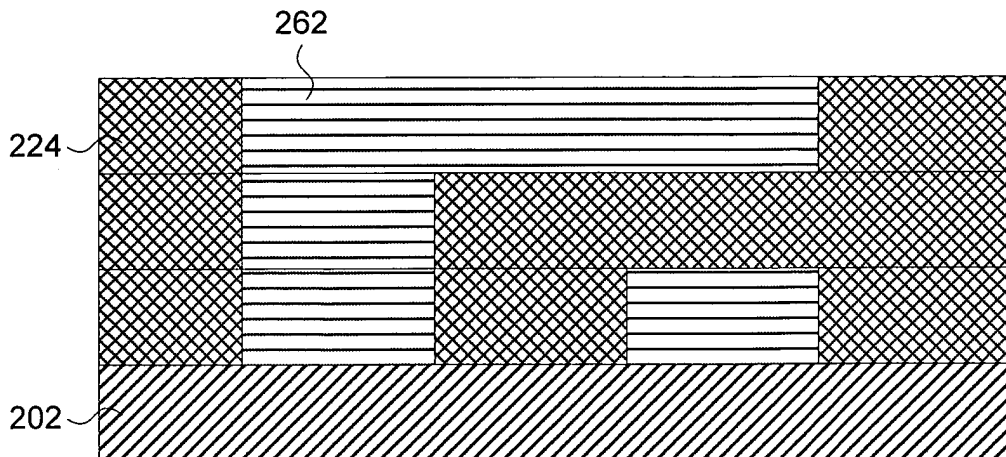
FIG 8A



236

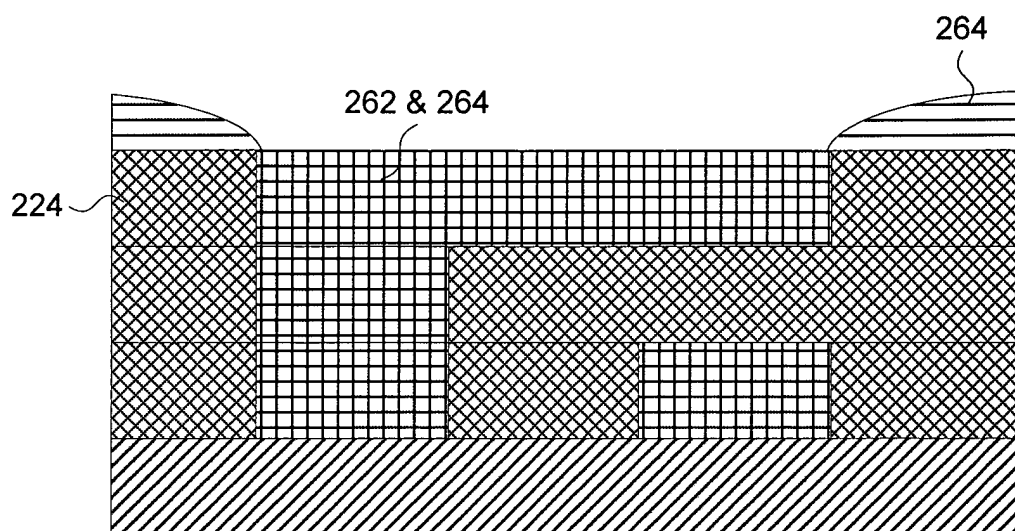
~~Figure 8(b)~~

FIG 8B



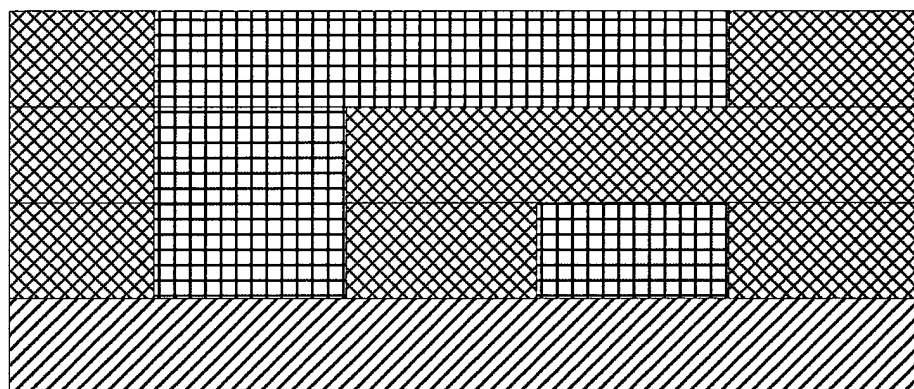
~~Figure 9(a)~~

FIG 9A



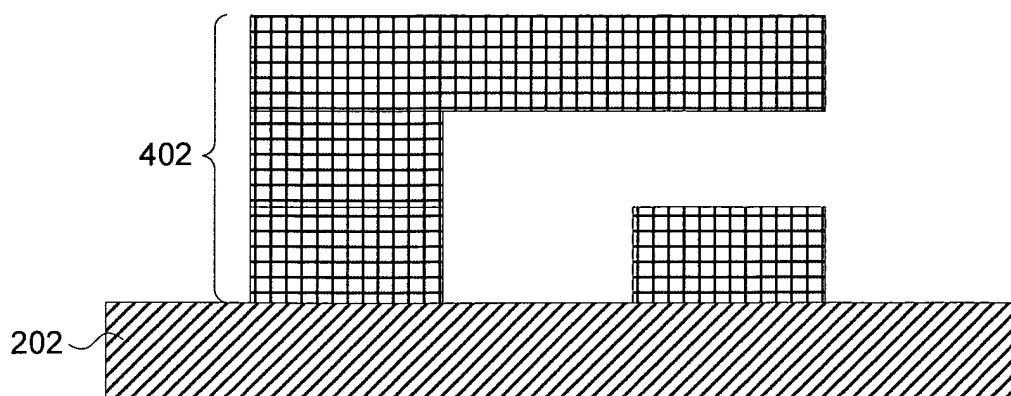
~~Figure 9(b)~~

FIG 9B



~~Figure 9(c)~~

FIG 9C



~~Figure 9(d)~~

FIG 9D